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EOC Spot Report, Update #1: Williams Olefins Plant Explosion, Geismar, Ascension Parish, LA

This report is being sent as a Bcc to prevent accidental reply-all messages.

US Environmental Protection Agency

Report as of 2000 hours, 6/13/13

Overview: Unconfirmed initial reports indicate that an explosion occurred at approximately 0830 hrs at the Williams Olefins chemical plant in Geismar, LA, which may have been caused by an explosion in a boiler room. Reportedly, the explosion caused fires and additional explosions at the facility.

Reports indicate that over 300 workers were evacuated from the site, at least 49 people were evacuated by ambulance, there is 1 confirmed fatality and 1 person missing (presumed dead). The two-mile precautionary shelter-in-place order originally issued to local residents has been reduced. Most of the fire has been extinguished; there is only fire associated with flaring.

State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions: Local fire and hazmat teams, Louisiana State Police, and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) are on-scene. LDEQ air monitoring results along Hwy 30 between Hwy 3115 and Hwy 73 indicate no levels of contaminants above background concentrations off-site. The USCG deployed a federal OSC Representative from Sector New Orleans Marine Safety Unit.

The NOC continues to reach out to USCG, TSA, FEMA, NICC, EPA and Louisiana Fusion Center. An Interagency Modeling and Atmospheric Assessment Center plume model was produced.

EPA Actions: HQ EOC continues to monitor the situation and receive updates from R6. The R6 REOC will continue to coordinate with them. An R6 OSC activated START contractors and

they are mobilizing to the scene. R6 START contractors and an R6 OSC are on scene and will conduct air monitoring throughout the night.

Media Interest: High

The HQ EOC will continue to monitor and provide additional updates as appropriate.

Explosion Chemical Plant Geismar, LA Critical Infrastructure



- ★ Explosion Site
- Infrastructure Assets
- Chemical and Hazardous Materials Industry
- Manufacturing

Maps shows explosion site at a chemical plant near Geismar, approximately 23 miles south of Baton Rouge along the Mississippi River

